

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HEW-02 OES-03 FS-01 ABF-01 TRSE-00

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O 211520Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6854

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONROVIA 4925

FOR AF/W FROM PORTER

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, TECH, LI, US

SUBJ: NIH FUNDING FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH IN LIBERIA

REF: STATE 196550

1. SHORT NOTICE OF DEADLINE AND SUBSEQUENT EFFORTS BY EMBASSY TO TO PRESS MOH ON THIS MONKEY BUSINESS NOT HELPFUL AND MAY HAVE EX-ACERBATED PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, BELIEVE AGREEMENT POSSIBLE WHICH WILL BE SATISFACTORY TO ALL PARTIES.

2. EMBOFF WAS ABLE TALK TO HEALTH MINISTER BRIGHT THIS MORNING AND DISCUSSED QTE WRITTEN ASSURANCES UNQTE BY GOL (REFTTEL) OF ITS INTENTION QTE COOPERATE WITH BOTH NIH AND BIOMEDICAL INSTITUTE UNQTE.

BRIGHT MADE FOLLOWING POINTS: (A) LIBERIAN INSTITUTE OF BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH (LIBR) SEPARATE GOL AGENCY AND WORKING AGREEMENT MUST BE BETWEEN NEW YORK BLOOD CENTER (NYBC) AND LIBR -- NOT RPT NOT WITH MOH; (B) IN ANY EVENT, HE COULD NOT GIVE QTE WRITTEN ASSURANCES UNQTE UNLESS HE HAS WRITTEN AGREEMENT BEFORE HIM TO REVIEW; AND (C) IMPOSSIBLE GIVE ANY ASSURANCES ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE. BRIGHT THIS MORNING DID SIGN STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN LIBR AND NYBC WHICH AUTHORIZES CAPTURE OF FIFTY (50) CHIMPANZEES (ALSO SIGNED BY AGMIN PHILLIPS, DR. EMMET DENNIS OF LIBR AND BROTMAN FOR PRINCE OF NYBC) AND/OR TO PURCHASE CHIMPS

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UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS. BRIGHT ALSO INDICATED THAT HE FORESEES

NO PROBLEMS IN NYBC AND LIBR REACHING ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT, AND
WELCOMES NIH INVOLVEMENT.

3. BROTMAN OF NY: 59)\$ 3. BOFF THAT LETTER OF COMMITMENT
FROM LIBR TO NYBC ALREADY SENT PCICE. LETTER REPORTEDLY
INFICATES NYBC WELCOME TO CONDUCT RESEARCH AT LIBR AND THAT
SPACE FOR SUCH RESEARCH WILL BE PROVIDED. DENNIS AWAITING
PRINCE'S RETURN TO LIBERIA TO WORK OUT DETAILS OF FORMAL
AGREEMENT AND ASSURES THAT NYBC WILL NOT BE REQUIRED PROVIDE
ANYTHING TO LIBERIA THAT NYBC UNABLE PROVIDE.

4. COMMENT: WHILE BRIGHT TOLD EMBOFF THAT LIBR SEPARATE
AGENCY AND MOH COULD NOT SIGN AGREEMENT, WE DOUBT IF ANY SUCH
AGREEMENT CAN BE SIGNED WITHOUT BRIGHT'S APPROVAL. IT DOES
APPEAR THAT AN AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED WHICH WILL MEET WITH
BRIGHT'S APPROVAL, AND EMBASSY FEELS THAT IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE
IF FUNDING DENIED ONLY BECAUSE OF THE DELAYS IN OBTAINING
SIGNED AGREEMENT THAT HAVE BEEN EXPERIENCED. DENNIS OF LIBR
SUPPORTS PROJECT. AS SCIENTIST, HE RECOGNIZES IMPORTANCE OF
PROJECT AND INTERESTED IN PRESTIGE THIS PROJECT WILL GIVE IF
SUCCESSFUL.

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